

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 TRSE-00
OMB-01 FEAE-00 INT-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6790
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
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DEPT ALSO FOR AID/NE - NOOTER AND RICHTER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CENTO, EAID
SUBJECT: CENTO ECONOMIC AFFAIRS - MEETING WITH SECRETARY-
GENERAL

1. NEA/RA DIRECTOR PALMER AND EMBOFF CALLED ON
SECRETARY-GENERAL BAYULKEN MARCH 15 FOR TOUR D'HORIZON OF
US-CENTO ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS. BYAULKEN BRIEFLY AND GENERALLY
REVIEWED OUTLOOK FOR CENTO IN POLITICAL, MILITARY AND ECONOMIC
FIELDS, BUT INTERVIEW WAS DEVOTED MAINLY TO ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.
(SEE SEPTTEL FOR DISCUSSION ON CENTO MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.)
BAYULKEN BEGAN BY NOTING THAT CENTO'S OVERALL IMPACT ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL COUNTRIES HAS BEEN MINIMAL,
FOR EXAMPLE, AS COMPARED TO IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT OF ITS
PETROLEUM INDUSTRY. NEVERTHELESS, CENTO'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO
REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION HAVE BEEN
SIGNIFICANT, AS TESTIFIED BY THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS IT
HAS UNDERTAKEN. WHAT CENTO NEEDS, HE CONTINUED, IS
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SEVERAL HIGHLY VISIBLE AND TANGIBLE PROJECTS TO DEMONSTRATE
THAT THE ALLIANCE IS TRULY A FORCE IN THE REGION. BAYULKEN
ALSO NOTED THAT PAKISTAN, AS THE LEAST DEVELOPED OF CENTO'S
REGIONAL COUNTRIES, WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS THROUGH CENTO.

2. PALMER COMMENTED THAT THE USG WANTS TO BE RESPONSIVE

TO STRENGTHENING CENTO ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, BUT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS TO WORK WITHIN CONGRESSIONALLY-IMPOSED LIMITATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE CURRENT EMPHASIS IS ON ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR RURAL POOR IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED NATIONS. CENTO WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO WORK OUT PROJECT PROPOSALS THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO SUCH CRITERIA.

3. ON THE PAKISTANI CIVILIAN MICROWAVE PROJECT, PALMER SAID THAT AID HAS DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSAL IS NOT RPT NOT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE; THEREFORE, WE WOULD NOT SUPPORT PROJECT. BAYULKEN ASKED WHAT WE HAD AS "A SUBSTITUTE." PALMER SAID THE USG IS WILLING TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT WITH CENTO AND THE GOP. HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH SECRETARIAT AND GOP OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING IN ISLAMABAD, MARCH 19-21, AND HOPED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE COULD BE REACHED TO CONSIDER A PROJECT INVOLVING A USG INPUT OF APPROXIMATELY \$500,000 PHASED OVER SEVERAL YEARS. THIS NEW PROJECT, PALMER ADDED, WOULD BE REGIONAL IN CHARACTER AND WOULD BE DEVELOPED IN COMBINATION WITH THE CENTO ECONOMIC STAFF. BAYULKEN WELCOMED USG'S WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER AN ALTERNATE PROJECT.

4. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL THEN ASKED WHETHER THERE IS ANY HOPE OF THE USG CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUNDING OF LARGE REGIONAL PROJECTS THAT MIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, INVOLVE FINANCIAL INPUTS FROM THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES THEMSELVES AS WELL AS FUNDING BY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKING INSTITUTIONS. PALMER SAID HE COULD NOT ASSESS THE POTENTIAL AVAILABILITY OF SUCH FUNDING, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND REMINDED BAYULKEN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS ON USG SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. BAYULKEN CONCLUDED BY CITING THE AMENDED PRIORITY LISTING OF CENTO'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS: AGRICULTURE, AGRO-INDUSTRY, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATIONS, MINERALS DEVELOPMENT, AND RURAL HEALTH. BAYULKEN SAID FINALLY THAT HE INTENDS TO PURSUE THESE ECONOMIC MATTERS FURTHER DURING HIS WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS, MARCH 25-30. MACOMBER

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